

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 05421 281203Z
ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 /046 W
-----290331Z 113807 /73
R 280950Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3698
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 5421

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO
SUBJECT: ILO-63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: POSITION
OF IVORY COAST

REF: ABIDJAN 5068

1. FOLLOWING MY DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTER USHER
LAST WEEK (REFTEL) ON CRITICAL ISSUES AT 63RD INTER-
NATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, I CALLED THIS AFTERNOON
ON LABOR MINISTER VANIE BI TRA, WHO DEPARTS FOR GENEVA
MAY 29 AND WILL BE CHIEF OF IVORIAN DELEGATION DURING
INITIAL PHASE OF CONFERENCE.

2. VANIE BI TRA APPEARED FULLY CONVERSANT WITH US
POSITION ON KEY ISSUES AND WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S
STATEMENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES THAT HE SHARED
OUR CONCERN ABOUT POLITICIZATION OF ILO AND WOULD
REGARD US WITHDRAWAL AS DEPLORABLE. LABOR MINISTER
SAID THAT IVORY COAST SAW CRITICAL ISSUES IN SAME LIGHT
AS US AND HE WOULD ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO IVORIAN DELEGATES
TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS TO
CAPITALIZE ON ENCOURAGING PROGRESS MADE AT FEBRUARY-MARCH
SESSION OF ILO GOVERNING BODY. I LEFT WITH VANIE BI TRA
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SUMMARY STATEMENT IN FRENCH OF US POSITION WHICH HE SAID
HE WOULD READ WITH INTEREST AND SUBSTANCE OF WHICH HE WOULD
CIRCULATE TO HIS DELEGATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, LABOR MINISTER SAID THAT
HE WAS NOT SURE HOW LONG HE PERSONALLY WOULD REMAIN IN
GENEVA. HE EXPECTED TO SEE HOUPHOUET THERE SOON AFTER HIS

ARRIVAL SINCE PRESIDENT WOULD BE RETURNING TO IVORY COAST
VIA GENEVA, FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF HOUPHOUET'S OFFICIAL
VISIT TO IRAN MAY 28. VANIE BI TRA ASSUMED THAT HOUPHOUET
WOULD AT THAT TIME INSTRUCT HIM ON LENGTH OF TIME LABOR
MINISTER SHOULD DEVOTE TO CONFERENCE. VANIE BI TRA SAID
THAT RANKING MEMBERS OF IVORIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE
IVORIAN AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA, BENIE NIOUPIN, AND MINISTRY'S
DIRECTOR OF LABOR, MAURICE N'GUESSAN ZOUKOUX. ENTIRE
DELEGATION WOULD NUMBER ELEVEN MEMBERS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS. STEARNS

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Message Attributes

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